



For all Michigan libraries,

We are pleased to be able to tentatively announce the suite of databases for the next three-year contract for MeL Databases, from 10/1/07 through 9/30/10. The list is firm, not tentative, but the contracts with the vendors will not be final until the Governor's Administrative Board approves the contract package later this summer. Of course, we do not anticipate any problems there, but we must issue that caveat along with this list of anticipated databases.

Much of what is included in the current package from 10/1/04 through 9/30/07 remains the same, but there are some exciting differences. Please note that our current contract for the LearningExpressLibrary test preparation and practice tests continues to be in place through 9/30/09, so that database is not listed as a part of the new databases.

The databases we will subscribe to from Thomson Gale (<http://www.galegroup.com/>) are:

Academic OneFile (includes multiple subsets or power packs)  
Kids InfoBits  
InfoTrac Student  
InfoTrac Junior  
InfoTrac OneFile (includes multiple subsets or power packs)  
Gale Virtual Reference Library  
Health and Wellness Resource Center  
Business and Company Resource Center  
Educators Reference Complete  
Infotrac Custom Newspapers  
What do I read Next?  
Biography and Genealogy Master Index (BGMI)  
Informa  
ChiltonLibrary.com

We are so pleased to be able to have responded positively to the many requests for Chiltons that we heard throughout our town meeting travels and prior to those as well. The addition of the Business and Company Resource Center includes the content of the GeneralBusinessFile, but is also a major enhancement of content that should prove invaluable to you and your patrons. The Educators Reference Complete includes significantly more content than the previous iteration of resources that was known as the InfoTrac K12 Professional Collection. An example of new content included in their core set of academic databases (Academic OneFile) is the Fine Arts Collection.

The databases we will subscribe to from ProQuest (<http://proquest.com/>) are:

SIRS Discoverer  
eLibrary Elementary  
SIRS Renaissance  
HeritageQuest

You will note the retention of the two major K-12 databases that we have had to date. We are pleased to be adding information on current perspectives in the arts and humanities that is found within the SIRS Renaissance database. And, since our RFP required the option of remote authentication beyond in-library usage for Michigan residents and the Ancestry database is not offered in that fashion, we have selected the HeritageQuest (HQ) database for access to many valuable genealogical

resources. HQ includes thousands of digitized fully-searchable genealogies and local histories from across the U.S.; it has the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), a project of the Allen County Public Library that indexes thousands of genealogical society newsletters and journals; and among other things, it also adds access to the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company records from this bank that formed in 1865 and includes information on the accounts of many former slaves and to selected records of Revolutionary War soldiers' pensions. We have heard from many quarters over the past several years of a great interest in having MeL provide access to the easily navigable resources provided in HeritageQuest, so we are glad to be able to offer it starting in October.

The databases we will contract for from OCLC (<http://www.oclc.org/>) are:

WorldCat  
Electronic Books  
ECO: Electronic Collections Online  
ArticleFirst  
ERIC  
GPO Monthly Catalog  
MEDLINE  
World Almanac  
HSTM: History of Science, Technology & Medicine  
SCIPIO: Art and Rare Book Database  
Hand Press Book Database  
CAMIO: Catalog of Art Images Online  
Wilson Select Plus

We are excited to have been able to add the science, technology and medicine historical resource in HSTM, and the two rare book database resources will be of additional use to those managing special collections and to their patrons as well. And the addition of the CAMIO database is a very exciting enhancement to MeL, offering Michigan's libraries and residents something truly new and different -- it includes tens of thousands of high-resolution art images that can be used by students, faculty, researchers, museum professionals and others, for which all content rights are cleared for educational use.

We will be engaging in a brand new contract relationship with EBSCO (<http://www.ebsco.com>) for the following:

CINAHL basic index  
NoveList

This CINAHL database is the same product to which we have subscribed previously through OCLC, but which is now owned and managed by EBSCO. And the NoveList will add a highly regarded readers advisory resource for librarians, their patrons, and for Michigan residents at large!

Finally, our contract with Newsbank (<http://www.newsbank.com/>) remains the same as what we have had from them and includes:

Detroit News  
Grand Rapids Press  
Lansing State Journal

We will be working these next weeks and months to get the contracts finalized and approved, but this gives you all notice about what to expect. The vendors will be contacting those of you who already have individual library subscriptions for those databases we are now covering via MeL starting in October. They will let you know how the switch-over from your current contracts to having these covered by MeL will work for them and for you, so that you can work out those details between now and October.

Thank you for your patience in anticipating the announcement of the list. The process has been time-consuming and involved, but we feel very positive about what we will be able to offer you and your patrons over the upcoming three years. Thanks to all of you who devoted time and energy to the process!

Nancy

Nancy R. Robertson  
State Librarian